

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /087 W

----- 005317

R 021750Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5300

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN: SPANISH SAHARA

1. KING HASSAN DISCUSSED THE SPANISH SAHARA, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, DURING MY HOUR-LONG AUDIENCE WITH HIM APRIL 30 (ROYAL CABINET DIRECTOR BENSOUDA ALSO ATTENDED THIS MEETING). AS HE HAD DONE IN HIS APRIL 28 FRENCH RADIO INTERVIEW WITH EDOUARD SABLIER, HE TOOK A FIRM LINE AND CHARACTERIZED SPANISH BEHAVIOR AS "DISGUSTING". "WE WILL GET THE SAHARA EVEN IF IT TAKES US TEN YEARS," HE SAID, AND THE SPANISH SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS. "IF THEY WANT A BIAFRA OR A KATANGA" IN THE SAHARA, HE ADDED, "THEY WILL GET IT." AS ALWAYS, HE CONCLUDED, MOROCCO WOULD INFINITELY PREFER A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION AND HAS BEEN STRIVING CEASELESSLY TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH MADRID. THE SPANISH,

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HOWEVER, DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE INITIATIVES.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING INSTRUCTIONS, I REPLIED
COUNSELING CAUTION AND EXPRESSING THE STRONG HOPE THAT THE
DISPUTE COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS IN THE SABLIER INTERVIEW (IN WHICH HE SAID
A VIETNAM-LIKE SITUATION MIGHT DEVELOP IN THE SAHARA), THE
KING HAD THE "WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION" CONCEPT VERY MUCH
IN MIND DURING OUR TALK. I HAD HALF EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD
DISCUSS MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS, WHICH AT PRESENT SEEM
MORE STRAINED THAN USUAL BY THE SAHARA EMBROGLIO, BUT HE
DID NOT MENTION ALGERIA ONCE DURING HIS PRESENTATION.
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